

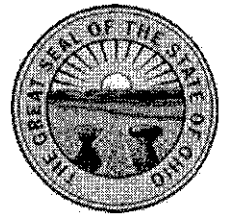


NICK CROSSLEY, CEM, CPM
DIRECTOR

County of Hamilton

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY

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July 24, 2019

Chief Lisa M. Fowlkes
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 201554

Re: AMENDED – Hamilton County, Ohio Application for FCC Rule Waiver

Dear Chief Fowlkes,

Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) would like to respectfully request approval of an FCC Rule Waiver in order to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Test on **Wednesday, September 4, 2019**. A Backup Test date is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 10, 2019**. This letter is being submitted as an amendment to Hamilton County EMHSA's original FCC Rule Waiver request submitted on July 18, 2019.

If approved, the WEA test would be conducted at **0900 Eastern Daylight Time** on both proposed dates, and would only be broadcasted to cell phones within Hamilton County, Ohio limits. If approved, the live WEA test will be initiated through the emergency notification system (Rave Alert Mobile Safety). The test WEA message will read: ***"This is a test of the Hamilton County Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action required."*** The live test will expire after 30 minutes from alert origination.

This will be the first live county-wide test of the WEA system for Hamilton County and will help bolster confidence in the county's ability to effectively notify residents, business owners, and visitors of Hamilton County that an emergency is in progress. This test is not intended to be a substitute for other scheduled tests of Wireless Emergency Alerts. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system will work during emergencies both natural and man-made in Hamilton County. Testing this system is of the utmost importance, as Hamilton County experiences not only natural disasters, such as Flash Flooding and high-wind events, including Tornadoes, but also man-made hazards, including hazardous materials spills and active shooter incidents. Because Hamilton County is a large, metropolitan area in a crucial "Battleground State," frequent high-profile visits by political figures can be expected in the lead up to the 2020 National Election. In preparation for these visits, it is important for Hamilton County EMSHA to be forward-leaning and prepared to message to the public in order to keep them notified and safe during a large-scale incident.

Doing a live test of the WEA system is vital to public safety in Hamilton County because there is a great likelihood that this system will be used in the future to warn the public to shelter in place during a hazardous

materials spill/release. As a historical perspective on the hazardous material threat in Hamilton County- in June 2018, a leak of the deadly chemical Anhydrous Ammonia near a residential and highly-populated industrial/commercial area, prompted the urgent need to send a Wireless Emergency, warning the impacted public of actions to take in order to stay safe. While a WEA was sent in order to notify the public of danger, it became evident that there was a significant need to explain and take further steps to test this emergency public information tool.

Prior to the test date, an extensive multi-media public outreach effort will be made to help make residents, businesses, and county stakeholders aware of this test. Outreach for this test will include: the test message's date and time; test purpose; expectations during the test; the date and time of the backup test date; and an awareness that the September 4, 2019 WEA alert is just a test. Messaging will also be included to explain that there is a possibility for the public to receive duplicate messages and for people in adjacent counties to receive the message. Hamilton County EMHSA will develop a marketing plan to include social media content, press releases for media consumption, coordination with Public Information Officers throughout the County, and notification of emergency partners, including communication centers, law enforcement entities, fire/EMS agencies, regional hospitals, the National Weather Service, local elected and appointed leaders, local universities, and public school districts. Due to the potential for the message to extend into neighboring jurisdictions, Hamilton County EMHSA will also notify and provide information to adjacent county emergency management agencies. Hamilton County EMHSA will notify and work with the area's commercial wireless providers regarding the test.

Prior to making the request for a Live Test FCC Waiver, Hamilton County EMHSA has successfully completed two WEA and EAS tests with the IPAWS Lab, and undergoes weekly internal testing to ensure staff members are equipped with the knowledge necessary to send effective emergency messages to the public. Hamilton County EMHSA plans to record test results for the September 2019 WEA Live Test and will provide a detailed account of any problems or concerns that occur in the distribution of the test to your office.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Emily Johnson, Community Outreach Specialist, Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency at Emily.Johnson@hamilton-co.org or 513-263-8244.

I appreciate any consideration you may give this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Crossley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Crossley
Director, Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency